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Security Helm Sought for Otepka

WASHINGTON — Some significant developments have been taking place backstage regarding Otto Otepka, the onetime State Department official dropped by both Democratic and Republican secretaries of state for leaking security classified papers to Sen. Tom Dodd of Connecticut.

First development took place inside the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. Sen. Everett Dirksen, R-Ill., tried to push confirmation of Otepka to the $36,000 job on the Subversive Activites Control Board. Nixon had appointed him to this post, at Dirksen's urging — quite a promotion from his old $14,000 State Department job.

When Dirksen made this move at a closed-door session, Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and Joe Tydings of Maryland asked to see a transcript of the Otepka hearings. They knew a subcommittee very friendly to Otepka — including Sen. Dodd, to whom Otepka leaked the papers — had passed on his qualifications. And they suspected he had been asked no penetrating questions about his Nazi friends.

Sen. Dirksen tried to brush Kennedy and Tydings aside. But Chairman Jim Eastland, D-Miss., ruled the senators had a right to read galley proofs of the hearing. So a vote was delayed. It comes to a head this week.

Second development was revelation of a conspiracy to establish a new security network with Otepka at the top.

Third development was concrete evidence Otepka has been extremely close to the neo-Nazi movement in the United States.

Thus, as a member of the Subversive Activities Control Board, charged with ruling on subversive organizations, Otepka would be called upon to pass upon the activities of his closest friends and could protect them.

IT NOW HAS been established beyond any possible doubt the Liberty Lobby was one of the most indefatigable champions of Otepka. It further has been established beyond any doubt the Liberty Lobby is a front for the neo-Nazi movement.

At first an effort was made to conceal the links between the Liberty Lobby and the neo-Nazis. Their private link was Willis Carto, founder of both. Now, however, the Liberty Lobby publicity is pushing the sale of paperback editions of "Imperium," the new "Mein Kampe" of the Naziism in the United States.

The link between Otepka and the Liberty Lobby never has been concealed. The Liberty Lobby produced and distributed a film, "The Otepka Case." Liberty Lobby bulletins consistently have defended Otepka and consistently hammered his critics.

However, the conspiracy to set up a new security organization is the most significant development of all.

The Subversive Activities Control Board to which Otepka is being appointed has been inactive for years. It hasn't heard a single case of subversion. However, right-wing senators plan to revitalize it under Otepka's leadership.

To this end they have already made Otepka's former assistant, John Norpel Jr., research director of the Senate Internal Security Committee.

Furthermore, they plan to pass a new internal security act, S. 12, giving Otepka new powers to conduct witch hunts.

SEN. STROM THURMOND, R-S.C., an author of S. 12, describes it as follows: "The proposed Internal Security Act of 1969, now pending in the Senate, would set up a central security agency for all agencies of government, under control of the Subersive Activities Control Board.

"If this legislation passes," says Thurmond, "Mr. Otepka will once again deal with security evaluation, not only for the State Department, but for all the government."

These are some of the vital issues to be discussed behind the closed doors of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The public will not be present. Later, presumably, the issues also will be discussed on the Senate floor.

DAVID BERGER, former district attorney of Philadelphia, has worked out a new angle to cure crime in the inner cities. It's the "Justice Corps," patterned after the Peace Corps, and it will work with youngsters in the ghettoes.

"Most people view the police and the district attorney's office as their enemy," says Berger. "We have to reverse that and make them think of the police and the DA as their friend. They should be symbols of justice, not oppression. If people are in trouble, they can come to the police. They can come to the district attorney.

"But we have to work at this — hence the Justice Corps."

Berger has started with the enlistment of Chet Walker, famous basketball star of the Philadelphia 76ers, to serve as director of the Justice Corps. The new organization is going to start seeking out injustice and trying to rectify it before it causes unrest and dissension.

LIKEABLE SEN. BARRY Goldwater, whose conservative outlook is as hardrock as the landscape of his native Arizona, has taken the Senate's Republican freshmen under his wing.

By his standards they are flaming liberals but he doesn't seem to be trying to convert them to his conservative philosophy. He merely wants to help them overcome the bewilderment he encountered when he first came to the Senate.

He recalled to friends how his hands sweated and his knees knocked the first time he rose in the Senate to address the chair.

"I was scared to death," he confided. He didn't know how to proceed, what parliamentary pitfalls to avoid."